

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 16, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 14 and 27 have been amended. Claims 35 and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 14 to 34 are pending in this application, with claims 14 and 27 being the independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the file does not contain a Patent Drawing Review by the Patent Office Draftsperson. It is requested that this Review be undertaken and a Review by the Draftsperson be issued in response to this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2002 (page 5), Claims 35 and 36 were rejected because "the lower number of the Eriksson range touches on the upper number of the present range". The limitations of claims 35 and 36 have been added to independent claims 14 and 27, respectively, so the examiner's rejection of claims 35 and 36 would now apply to claims 14 and 27. It is presumed that "the present range" refers to the range recited in amended claims 14 and 27 (previously claims 35 and 36). This rejection is not understood. As previously stated in the Amendment dated September 5, 2002, Eriksson discloses a nip length of 30 to 100 mm, amended claims 14 and 27 recite a nip length of "**less than**" 30 mm. These two ranges do not "touch", as alleged by the Examiner. The recited phrase "less than 30" does not encompass 30, therefore there is no "touching" of the ranges. Although it is not believed necessary, the claims have been amended to further clarify the recited ranges by reciting "less than **and not equal to** 30". Since amended claims 14 and 27 clearly do not "touch upon" the range disclosed in Eriksson, and since the other prior art references relied upon by the examiner do not disclose this limitation, amended independent claims 14 and 27 are patentable over the prior art of record. Dependent claims 15 to 26 and 28 to 34 are patentable for the same reasons that independent claims 14 and 27 are patentable.

Since these arguments were addressed in the previous Amendment and in the pending Office Action, Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 14 and 27 do not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

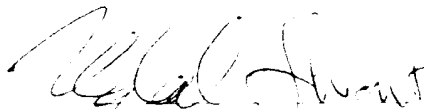
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Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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